

DOINGS OF THE VAN LOONS

Father Didn't Know They Were Going to Spring Such a Hard One

By F. LEIPZIGER



Timely Observations of Events Happening in the Sporting World

MANY REASONS FOR LONG GAMES

Pitchers Slower Than Ever; Strategy Consumes Time

Many of those who always are lined up "with the government" are declaring in print that the new rule inaugurated by President Johnson of the American league eliminating chasing after foul balls, so as to shorten base-ball games, is a failure. They point to the indisputable fact that the games in the American league this season have been longer than before on the average. Hence the new rule is an absolute and unqualified failure, they insist. These critics overlook the point that the games this season are longer not because of the new rule, but in spite of it. There is no question in the minds of any unprejudiced person that the ignoring of a lot of foul balls, leaving them for the unconsidered chase, has cut out an enormous unnecessary delay in ball games. Any one who doubts it need only to observe how many times a catcher or an outfielder is saved a journey to the grandstand back to his position by the instructions to umpires to supply a new ball to the pitcher as soon as a foul is hit where it will require time to recover the ball.

A few days of close observation would convince any one that the new method does save time, but there is the other fact that the games are getting longer on the average. Games, which used to be finished well inside of two hours now extend over two hours. It is not at all unusual to see a contest in which four or five runs are scored in the aggregate by both teams, but over two hours, although the hitting is light and few men get on bases. There must be a reason for this, but it is not because the chasing of foul balls has been eliminated. Without the provision to pass up foul balls and let substitutes retrieve them, the American league game which ended inside of two hours would be exceptional and almost noteworthy this season, while many of the games in which big scores are registered would last over 2½ hours. The reasons are several and not hard to find. Pitchers never use up so much time as they are using this season. The interval between pitched balls is getting longer each year. Part of this is due to the introduction of so many new pitchers who use the spitball or pretend to use it. There are more who pretend than there are who use it regularly. Catchers give the signs deliberately to avoid hurrying their pitchers, and also to mislead opponents who are trying to catch the sign. Then, after he has caught the catcher's sign calling for the next ball, the pitcher usually has to go through the motions of moulting the ball—a considerable number of sludges do this with regularity, even if they do not pitch two spitballs during a game. They will deliver just enough of the moist breakers to convince the batsmen they can do it when they want to, so as to compel the men with the stick to take the spitball into consideration every time they make a guess at what is coming.

Many pitchers use more time than would be necessary actually to pitch the spitball, to make sure the batsmen will not make a quick application of moisture is merely a bluff. Some pitchers actually give themselves away by making their bluff at moistening the ball more pronounced than when they intend to deliver the spitball. Judging by Mathewson's recent claim to have finished a game by pitching only 70 balls, it would be a low estimate to figure that each pitcher in a game will deliver at least 100 balls on the average. If one of the two hurlers is constantly bluffing the splitter that means a waste of 500 seconds between the signal and the delivery of the ball. And 500 seconds is nearly 10 minutes. If both pitchers in a game are alleged spitball artists, the aggregate delay will be between 15 and 20 minutes in a game. This loss of time is all inaction.

One growing cause of inaction is the increasing practice of using substitutes both at bat and on the bases.

LOOK FOR THRILLS IN NEXT SERIES

Giants Strong in Box But Athletics Have Many Stars

Detroit, Aug. 8.—It is now known, probably, the Athletics and the New York Giants look forward to the fall inter-league series, one of the most interesting competitions of the long series between the American and National league ought to be the result. In such cases the old league will be represented by a high-class baseball team, with a well-balanced pitching staff, including the man who must be considered the most heroic, twisting figure of his time—Christy Mathewson. The American league will go into action represented by a team of phenomena batters and home runners, brilliant fielders and with but one pitcher who can be relied on for uniform effectiveness. The Mackmen, in the series with Detroit which lately closed, looked like the most effective club in the world with Plank in the box. But in the other four games of the five-game series their best efforts at the bat and in the field could not balance the ineffective pitching that Brown, Honk Bush and Bender were serving to the Tigers. Jennings' men, though only a near-tail-end affair for their batting prowess, made merry with each right-handed pitcher. Manager Mauer trotted out. In one game they were also favored by the break in the luck. But the series, in its entirety, showed conclusively that if the Athletics win the world's series with their present line of battle Plank will have to bear a major share of the burden. Bender, who was such a tower of strength in the world's series of two years ago, is charged with defeat in two of the games of the series. He may, of course, round into form. Connie may also be able to recruit a youngster or two during the time that remains for adding clobbers. Perhaps one of the youngsters on his present list may find himself during the second half of the season. But this seems a forlorn hope. The Athletics will have to turn the trick with their bats and will surely find rough shelling in case the series develops many pitching duels with another than Plank on the mound. The greatest treat the writer has experienced in a long time was the opportunity to watch Collins and Barry in some of their copyrighted pieces of teamwork that every now and then put a crimp in the Tiger scoring line.

Evans and Tinker, in the days of the Cubs' sensational campaign, developed many a clever play. But even this magnificent pair must be accorded second place in view of the sort of co-operation these young Athletics have developed during their years of association. Collins and Barry executed in a game the plays that their most adept imitators sometimes succeed in turning during the practice session. In the Detroit series I saw Collins rear over at full speed toward the bag for a ball hit sharply through the box. He got it perhaps 20 feet from the bag but never grasped it, merely hitting it to his mate, with his bare right hand. Barry was at full speed. At he took the ball he kicked the bag. The toss was so perfect that he was already in position to complete the double play by a perfect throw to first that beat the batsman, himself a first runner, by almost two steps. There were at least five points of this play that could have gone wrong and wrecked it. Few infielders would have cared to attempt the sensational way in which it was started, but Collins knew that it was a play which could be performed in this way only. Twice in the series the pair, with Lapp's help, effectively blocked Tiger double steals, with men on first and third. In one case Barry, 19 or 15 feet in front of the base, noted that the man on third was not starting and let the throw go through to Collins who got the man sliding in to second. In the other case Collins, playing the short position, saw the break to the plate, intercepted the throw and got his man at the plate by an easy margin, through a perfect return to Lapp. It was world's championship baseball.

Chicago, Ill., Aug. 8.—The Chicago Nationals today purchased outfielder Charles Stewart from the Indianapolis American Association, club. Stewart is to report to the local club at the end of the week. The purchase price was not announced.

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LANDS TWO BIG BOUTS.

Promoter McCarey Signs Heavy and Lightweight.

Los Angeles, Cal., Aug. 8.—Two sets of ring articles have been signed up by Promoter McCarey. Tommy Burns, representing Arthur Peckey and Louis Parente, manager of Charley Miller, met the local match maker at the Angus hotel and signed for the heavyweights to box twenty rounds on the night of September 22. Each manager posted a forfeit of \$500 to go as appearance money. Burns announced that he would cancel Peckey's theatrical dates and have his man here no later than September 1.

Also, Joe Rivers and Leach Cross signed for their twenty-round bout on Labor Day, each man posting a forfeit of \$1,000 for weight, 124 rimbade, and appearance.

Big League Managers Offer Big Assortment of Trades. St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 8.—Since the publication of the story that the entire Cardinals team is on the trading block, with the exception of Manager Miller Huggins, big league teams in all parts of the country have rushed forward with offers of trades of all kinds. Pitchers, outfielders, infielders and catchers have been offered by the card team but as yet none of the managers who have so kindly come to the relief of the crippled Cardinals have made offers that pleased Manager Huggins. In fact, the majority of these offers were of such a nature that they were scorned immediately, but it is believed it won't be long before St. Louis has practically a new team.

MAN EATING RACE HORSE. "The moment horse on the Grand Circuit" is what some say of Dillard S., the newest man eater. Dillard S., raced at Grand Rapids but before he started he hit a nigger from a neighboring groom who had volunteered to assist in getting the horse ready. A few days before Dillard had snipped a finger from his own groom. While on a half-mile track it is said the horse reached over the fence and bit a man in the arm, breaking it.

WINGO STEALS THREE BASES IN INNING—First in 67 Games.

Failure to Show Form Believed to Have Discouraged Him.

George Mullin, the veteran pitcher who was sold by Detroit to Washington and in turn sent from the Nationals to Montreal in the international league, has jumped the latter club and has been suspended. Mullin was one game and lost two while with the Royals and it is believed that he became discouraged. The pitcher worked very hard in Gulfport during the past spring, earning himself in fine physical trim and it is believed that his inability to regain his winning form caused him to leave the game.

AN UNUSUAL RECORD. Wingo Steals Three Bases in Inning—First in 67 Games. This is one of the peculiar incidents to Ivey Wingo's base-stealing record this year. It required 67 games for him to swipe three sacks and last Wednesday afternoon he performed the feat of stealing three bases in the second inning. For the remainder of 1912 Manager Huggins, of the Cardinals, will keep Wingo behind the bat because he hasn't a worthy successor but it wouldn't be surprising if in 1914 Ivey will flash forth as an outfielder.

SOME BRITISH HUMOR. London, Aug. 8.—Punch's cartoon this week depicts Uncle Sam carrying a yate, a polo stick and a tennis racket and talking to John Bull who is attired in cricket flannels. The caption reads: "Uncle Sam—Say, John, what's your game anyway—cricket? Well, see here, mail me a copy of the rules with the date of the next international championship. I'm crazy on cups."

BASEBALL

LEAGUE STANDING.

National League.	W.	L.	Pct.
New York	69	31	.690
Philadelphia	60	36	.625
Chicago	54	43	.559
Pittsburgh	52	47	.525
Brooklyn	43	53	.445
Boston	41	57	.418
Cincinnati	41	63	.394
St. Louis	39	64	.379

AMERICAN LEAGUE.

W.	L.	Pct.
Philadelphia	71	.696
Cleveland	64	.619
Washington	57	.559
Chicago	55	.514
Boston	49	.512
Detroit	44	.415
St. Louis	42	.386
New York	33	.337

TODAY'S GAMES.

National League. Boston at Pittsburgh. New York at Cincinnati. Philadelphia at Chicago. Brooklyn at St. Louis.

AMERICAN LEAGUE.

Cleveland at Washington. Chicago at Philadelphia. St. Louis at New York. Detroit at Boston.

YESTERDAY'S GAMES.

National League. St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 8.—St. Louis defeated Brooklyn here yesterday, although the victory was not well earned. Allen's wild throw to first base in the opening inning paved the way for the home team's victory.

REAL NAMES OF FIGHTERS.

White Ritchie, Joe Rivers and Leach Cross, all of whom have been in the public eye of late, fight under assumed names. In fact a big percentage of the more prominent scrappers use stage names in the ring. Here is a list of the headlines, giving their real appellation:

Poe Rivers—Poe Rivers. Tommy Burns—Noah Brusso. Stanley Ketchel was Stanislaus Ketchel. Jim Flynn—Andrew Haymer. K. O. Brown—Valentine Braun. Willie Ritchie—Geary E. A. Steffen. Charley White—Charles Anshovitz. George Chip—George Chipulonis. Wildcat Ferns—Clarence McQuibbins. Jack Britton—William J. Breslin.

MULLIN JUMPS CONTRACT.

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Laurium Department

RUSH WORK ON EXTENSION OF POND WATER SYSTEM

FORCE OF MEN IS ENGAGED ON BOLLMAN ADDITION IMPROVEMENT.

Excavating for the pond water extension in the Bollman addition began yesterday under the direction of superintendent of the water department, John Stetter. The pipe, 360 feet eight inches in diameter, is on the grounds and two weeks should complete the entire work. The main will be extended to Fulton and Iroquois streets where a hydrant will be installed. This will prove adequate protection from fire to the entire north end of the village. Hitherto, a stretch of at least 1,500 feet of hose was necessary to reach property in the Bollman addition through any part of the section will be reached with the laying of not more than 500 feet when the work is completed.

With the tapping of the main, it is not improbable that request for an alarm box in that vicinity will be made. This idea was conveyed at the time the extension was considered and assurance of consideration was given. The nearest alarm station is some distance from the limits and residents feel that the absence of the alarm station may some time result in disaster. At the same time it is not unlikely that the council will consider the advisability of removing Box 4 to the fire station. This matter has long been before the board and individually, the council favors the change.

of the ninth. Ende walked, slide second and on Speaker's long hit to right field scored the run which gave Boston the victory.

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LUTHER LEAGUE MEETING.

Two Local Delegates Will Attend Session at Marquette.

The annual convention of the Swedish Lutheran of the Ishpeming district will be held in Marquette commencing Saturday, August 9 and ending Monday, August 11. Russell Johnson and Alus Millie Frisk left today to attend the meeting. This district embraces all the congregations east as far as the Soo, west as far as Calumet and south as far as Iron River and Iron Mountain. One hundred and twenty-five delegates have signified their intention of being present. At least six hundred visitors are expected from the neighboring congregations. Rev. Oscar Sundahl, of the Marquette Swedish Lutheran church is doing all he can to make the convention a success in every detail.

The convention opens Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock with a business session and a supper will be served to all the delegates in the church parlors at 5 o'clock. At 7:30 o'clock, Saturday evening, an interesting program will be given by the delegates. After the program, a light reception will be given to the visiting delegates by the local league.

Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, the regular high mass service will be held with communion services, at which the preparatory sermon of the gospel for the day will be preached by the Rev. Fred Wyman, of Ishpeming, president of the league. During the service anthems will be rendered by the local choir. Delegates and members of the local church will partake of the communion at the high mass. At 12:30 o'clock, dinner will be served in the church parlors, which will be followed by a program at 2:30 o'clock. Supper will be served at 5 o'clock and at 7:30 in the evening, another program will be rendered. The main feature of this program will be the jubilee cantata, which has been prepared and which will be sung by the Ishpeming and Marquette choirs together.

Prayer will be held Monday morning at 10 o'clock, at which the delegates will assemble for morning devotion. After the devotion the day will be given up for a picnic which will be held at Presque Isle and which will end the convention.

LAURIUM BREVITIES.

John Murley, of Cleveland, has arrived in Laurium to join his wife, who has been visiting here for the past two weeks. Mr. and Mrs. Murley will leave Sunday for Ishpeming enroute to their home. Mr. Murley was formerly engaged as foreman for the Lakeland Floral company.

Gordon R. Campbell left last night for Chicago.

Thomas S. Kemp of Painesdale was a Laurium visitor yesterday. He will leave shortly for Dayton, O.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Moore and children, Lorena and Robert of Superior, are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Sheldman, 224 Kensington street. Mr. and Mrs. Moore formerly resided in Laurium.

BACK ON THE BISHOP.

Dr. P. S. Henson once delivered his lecture on "Fools" at the New York Chautauqua. In introducing him Bishop Vincent said:

"Ladies and gentlemen, we are now to listen to a lecture on 'Fools' by one—the audience broke into a roar of laughter and after it had died away Bishop Vincent added—"of the most brilliant men in America."

Dr. Henson rose and with a genial smile said: "Ladies and gentlemen, I am not so great a fool as Bishop Vincent"—another roar of laughter, after which the speaker added—"would have you believe"—Judge.

HELPS OLD BALL PLAYER.

Gov. Tener of Pennsylvania Hands Out Fine Commission. Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 8.—Gov. John K. Tener today gave a substantial reward to a comrade of his old baseball days when he appointed George Wood once a member of the Philadelphia national league team and a mighty outfielder and hitter, marshal of the new public service commission.

Gov. Tener and Wood have been friends ever since their ball playing days in the course of which both were with the Chicago Nationals on a trip around the world. Wood's salary is \$2,000 a year.

State of Illinois will soon celebrate 100th anniversary of admission to the union.

"ENUF SED." WE SAVE YOU MONEY At the new PEOPLES DEPT. STORE 435-437 Fifth St. near Pine St. CALUMET, MICH.